



Carl Anderson



Kim Weston



Glen Campbell

CMSgt (ret) Gleeson, Lt Col (ret) James M. Bankhead, SMSgt (ret) Phyllis Williams, CMSgt (ret) David Ballengee and yours truly. Coordinating the series means that the commander has empowered an individual to make that all-important, initial contact with artists/agents and coordinate specific travel, repertoire and equipment details. The members of this circle of coordinators share a singular understanding and a unique bond of the intricacies of the total process.

Without a doubt, the Guest Artist Series is indeed a team effort. The entire organization participates, bringing together the talents of arrangers, performers and members from the staffs of technical support, operations, public affairs and supply for the final product, which comes to fruition on Sunday afternoons during February and March. Flexibility is the key, as the coordinators understand that a call might come at anytime during those critical weeks of the series. There is always at least one cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances, and of course the winter weather sometimes causes flight problems.

Ten years ago, Lt Col Bankhead gave me the opportunity of my life, when I was named the coordinator of the Guest Artist Series. This was extremely special because he was a previous series coordinator and knew well the requirements of the position. The fact that he believed that a fairly new master sergeant was up to doing the job previously done by higher ranking members of the organization spoke volumes of his expectations. His faith and guidance has been a driving force for me, which has helped to bring us to the 35th anniversary of the series.

All the artists, with whom we have worked over the past 35 years, have one thing in common: they are nice people. These artists have a genuine care for their fans and want to share their talents

by being guests of The USAF Band. It is a true love for country and a commitment to sharing their artistry that makes them willing to do these performances without receiving a fee. The roster of artists who have performed on the series is in excess of 200, and reads like a list of who's who in the entertainment industry. In fact, many artists want to know why they haven't been invited.

The 2001 Guest Artist Series opened with renowned opera star, bass-baritone Simon Estes, the next week followed with guitarist Mason Williams, then Carl Anderson and Kim Weston, who "took us in their arms and rocked us baby." Closing out February was the great Glen Campbell. Now we look forward to March 4, when Freda Payne and her sister, Scherrie Payne, take the stage. March 18 brings back José Feliciano, and we close the series with Rita Coolidge on March 25. Please, do not forget that there is no concert on March 11, due to the Saint Patrick's Day celebrations held in the downtown area of Washington.

Being part of the Guest Artist Series remains a highlight of my life and it is because of those who preceded me that The USAF Band can proudly celebrate its 35th anniversary season of the Guest Artist Series. We have a strong foundation of success and it is exciting to anticipate the overwhelming possibilities of future seasons. It is truly a joy to be part of an organization with so many talented individuals!

—CMSgt Daisy Jackson



José Feliciano



Rita Coolidge